

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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UNCLAS BELFAST 229

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: CONVENTION PASSES MOTION ON SECRET NEGOTIATIONS

REF: BELFAST 191

1. NORTHERN IRELAND CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION DEBATED
JUNE 26 MOTION TABLED BY UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST
COALITION. MOTION READ QUOTE: THAT THIS CONVENTION ASSURES
THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND THAT MEMBERS OF THE CONVENTION
WILL ENDEAVOUR TO DISCHARGE THE RESPONSIBILITIES PLACED
UPON THEM BY PARLIAMENT BUT EMPHASISES THAT SECRET NEGOTIATIONS
OR AGREEMENTS BETWEEN HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT AND THE
DESTRUCTIVE ELEMENTS IN THE COMMUNITY COULD ONLY PREJUDICE
THE WORK OF ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES IN THE CONVENTION UNQUOTE.

2. IN COURSE DEBATE UNIONISTS CRITICIZED GOVERNMENT
COMMUNICATIONS WITH PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN INCIDENT CENTERS,
SECRET TALKS LEADING TO CEASEFIRE AND CEASEFIRE ITSELF.
LOYALISTS EXPRESSED THEIR BELIEFS CEASEFIRE HAD GIVEN
PROVISIONAL IRA BREATHING SPELL AT CRITICAL TIME WHEN
SECURITY FORCES HAD FORCED PROVISIONALS TO THEIR KNEES.
MOST BACK BENCHERS WHO SPOKE TOOK OPPORTUNITY DIG
NORTHERN IRELAND MINISTERS FOR REFUSING MEET WITH DELEGATIONS
UNLESS THEY ACCOMPANIED BY MEMBER PARLIAMENT. MOTION PASSED
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BY VOICE VOTE WITH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY

ABSTAINING ON GROUNDS MOTION "IRRELEVANT".

3. COMMENT: UNDERLYING CONCERN OF CONVENTION IN THIS DEBATE IS WHEN PROVISIONAL IRA WILL END CEASEFIRE. THERE LITTLE DOUBT HERE THAT PROVISIONALS WILL RESUME BOMBINGS AND SHOOTING. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS LEADING FIGURES DISAGREE ONLY ON TIMING AND RATIONALE. SOME BELIEVE PROVISIONAL ACTION DEPENDS ON WHETHER CONVENTION SEEMS TO BE (A) FAILING (B) SUCCEEDING AND THERE VARIOUS THEORIES AS TO HOW PROVISIONALS WILL RESUME HOSTILITIES. ONE IS THAT THEY WILL SLOWLY ESCALATE INTO A CAMPAIGN USING SEPARATE PRETEXTS FOR EACH INCIDENT. ANOTHER THEORY IS THAT THEY WILL SEIZE SOME ISSUE AND REACT WITH SEVERAL LARGE SIMULTANEOUS EXPLOSIONS.

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